

ABISHAG FROM ISSACHAR

¹ When King David was very old, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him. ² So his attendants said to him, “Let us look for a young virgin to serve the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm.” ³ Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful young woman and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

I Kings 1:1-3

³² from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do--200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command;

I Chronicles 12:32

I. The unique anointing of Issachar

- A. The trait of the tribe of Issachar was that they could see sooner, better, deeper, and clearer.
- B. They knew what to do, and when to do it.
- C. They knew how to adapt their work to the conditions which constitute their opportunity.
- D. They were not skilled warriors, but their weapon was that they understood seasons. They knew exactly what to do and exactly the right time. Everything about life deals with timing.

- E. Most people react with logic, or with feeling alone. The Issachar anointing was David's secret weapon to see beyond the natural, and behind the scenes.
- F. The tribe of Issachar was always misunderstood because they looked and sounded out of place to carnal people who...
- * see drought, while Issachar hears the abundance of rain,
 - * see a valley of dead bones, while Issachar sees a breathing army,
 - * see empty nets, while Issachar sees sinking ships,
 - * see empty pots, while Issachar sees an oil business
 - * see two fish and five loaves, while Issachar sees a banquet for 5000.
- G. I Chronicles, chapter 7, calls them valiant men of might, chief men of multifaceted wisdom.
- H. They studied the movements of stars and planets. They understood chronological time.
- I. They called the nation together when the stars aligned for ceremonial feast days according to heaven's calendar.
- J. They knew the meaning of heavenly prodigies.
- K. They understood political and spiritual time.
- L. They knew when a move of God was ending, and another was beginning.
- M. They knew which leader was falling, and which was arising.
- N. They knew who the next leader should be, who to follow, and when to follow them.

- O. They followed David before he became king. (The tribes were split, except Issachar. They could sense his time had come.)
- P. They unconventionally supported Deborah, the female judge in Israel. (Judges 5)
- Q. They had the inside scoop, and were never taken by surprise.

* David's little Shunammite shepherdess was born and raised in the territory of Issachar.

II. Abishag and David's last brewing civil war (I Kings 1:5-7)

⁵ Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him. ⁶ (His father had never rebuked him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.) ⁷ Adonijah conferred with Joab son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest, and they gave him their support.

- A. Abishags are at their best serving in times of tension and eminent battle.
- B. Two camps were rapidly forming--Adonijah, Shimei, Joab, and Ahimelech, the devil's crew opposing God's king; and Benaiah, Nathan and Zadok, and the Pelethites and Cherithites, the mighty warriors of the king. The time for comeuppance is here.
- C. Abishag's ministry is at its best in the King's bedroom, ministering to him and encouraging him in his last experience of stupendous, spiritual warfare.

- D. Gihon and Zoheleth--two noisy coronations.
- E. A great tension is about to be relieved. A great victory is about to be won.
- F. Abishags and shaggys are the liminal linchpins that will assure victory in this hour.
- G. Their calmness and peace will guide us in times of warfare.